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Therefore, this

United States Patent

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If this application was filed prior to June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is the longer of seventeen years from the date of grant of this patent or twenty years from the earliest effective U.S. filing date of the application, subject to any statutory extension.

If this application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is twenty years from the U.S. filing date, subject to any statutory extension. If the application contains a specific reference to an earlier filed application or applications under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the term of the patent is twenty years from the date on which the earliest application was filed, subject to any statutory extension.

J. Todd Tschumi

Acting Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Melvinia Gary
Attest



US005979350A

United States Patent [19]

Larson et al.

[11] **Patent Number:** 5,979,350[45] **Date of Patent:** Nov. 9, 1999[54] **WATER SPORT TOWING APPARATUS AND METHOD**[75] **Inventors:** Borden M. Larson; William N. Snook, both of Orlando, Fla.[73] **Assignee:** Correct Craft, Inc., Orlando, Fla.[21] **Appl. No.:** 09/036,826[22] **Filed:** Mar. 9, 1998[51] **Int. Cl.**⁶ B63B 21/04; B63B 1/00; B63H 19/00[52] **U.S. Cl.** 114/253; 440/33; 441/68[58] **Field of Search** 114/253, 89, 66, 114/65 R, 83, 384, 361, 242, 254; 440/34; 441/68[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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The aerial performance characteristics of a performer using a water sport implement such as a wakeboard, and being towed by a vessel while maintaining stability of the vessel includes a first relatively rigid vertical support fitted to one side of the, a second relatively rigid vertical support fitted structure to an opposing side, and a horizontal bridging portion extending between upper extremities of the first and second vertically extending supports, at a height substantially above a level of the operator station for the vessel. A tow rope is attached to the horizontally extending bridging portion for towing the performer from the horizontally extending bridging portion while operating the vessel in a body of water. By pivotally attaching the first and second supports to the respective sides of the vessel, they can be rotated downwardly so that the vessel may pass underneath a bridge or into a boat house.

49 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets